

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6353
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLINE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MUNICH
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0194

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UR, YO, ETRD, ECIN
SUBJECT: MFA YUGOSLAV DESK OFFICER REVIEWS SOVIET-YUGOSLAV
RELATIONS

REF: 77 MOSCOW 14347

SUMMARY: IN A CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF ON JAN 4 MFA
YUGOSLAV DESK OFFICER EDUARD KONSTANTINOVICH KRASAVIN
DISCUSSED SOVIET RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA. DESCRIBING
THESE RELATIONS AS "NORMAL" KRASAVIN WAS REMARKABLY
FRANK IN ACKNOWLEDGING THE LIMITS ON BOTH POLITICAL AND
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ECONOMIC COOPERATION. END SUMMARY.

1. KRASAVIN SAID THAT ECONOMIC RELATIONS HAVE BEEN
DEVELOPING SLOWLY AND WITH DIFFICULTY. THE USSR HAS
NOW EXTENDED OVER ONE BILLION DOLLARS IN STATE
CREDITS TO YUGOSLAVIA (ALL FIGURES CITED WERE IN
DOLLARS). HE SAID THAT THE 15TH SESSION OF THE

SOVIET-YUGOSLAV JOINT ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL COMMISSION WHICH MET IN OCTOBER OF LAST YEAR INCREASED THE 540 MILLION DOLLAR CREDIT EXTENDED IN 1972 TO 750 MILLION DOLLARS. (COMMENT: THIS INCREASE IS EVEN HIGHER THAN FIGURES YUGOSLAVS WERE HOPING FOR AS REPORTED REFTEL. END COMMENT.) THIS INCREASE WAS TO ACCOUNT FOR THE HIGHER COSTS OF THE 42 PROJECTS COVERED UNDER THE 1972 CREDIT AND DID NOT CONSTITUTE A NEW CREDIT.

2. KRASAVIN NOTED THAT ASIDE FROM THESE STATE CREDITS, THERE ARE OTHER CREDITS EXTENDED TO INDIVIDUAL ENTERPRISES IN YUGOSLAVIA, CITING THOSE IN THE AREA OF NONFERROUS METALLURGY AND ALUMINUM. KRASAVIN SPOKE OF THE SLOWNESS AND DRAWING ON SOVIET CREDITS, WHICH HE SAID WAS CAUSED BY THE FEDERAL STRUCTURE OF YUGOSLAVIA AND BY LOCAL JEALOUSIES, AND INDICATED THAT DRAWINGS ON SOVIET CREDITS HAVE BEEN SLOW. ON TRADE, KRASAVIN SAID THAT TURNOVER CONTINUES TO INCREASE AT THE RATE OF TEN PERCENT A YEAR. TOTAL TRADE WILL AMOUNT TO TWO AND HALF BILLION DOLLARS THIS YEAR AND WILL TOTAL 14 BILLION DOLLARS IN THE CURRENT FIVE YEAR PLAN PERIOD.

3. KRASAVIN SERVED RECENTLY IN YUGOSLAVIA AND SPOKE
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OF THE COUNTRY WITH CONSIDERABLE WARMTH, WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT RELATIONS AT TIMES HAVE NOT BEEN GOOD AND ARE NOW ONLY "NORMAL". HE DID NOT SEE ANY MAJOR PROBLEMS FACING THE USSR AND YUGOSLAVIA AND SAID THAT TITO'S VISIT OF LAST SUMMER HAD GONE WELL. HE DID NOT FORESEE ANY RETURN VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA BY BREZHNEV IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND SAID THAT THE ONLY MAJOR FORTHCOMING VISIT WAS THAT OF A YUGOSLAV PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION WHICH IS TO VISIT THE USSR THIS YEAR.
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